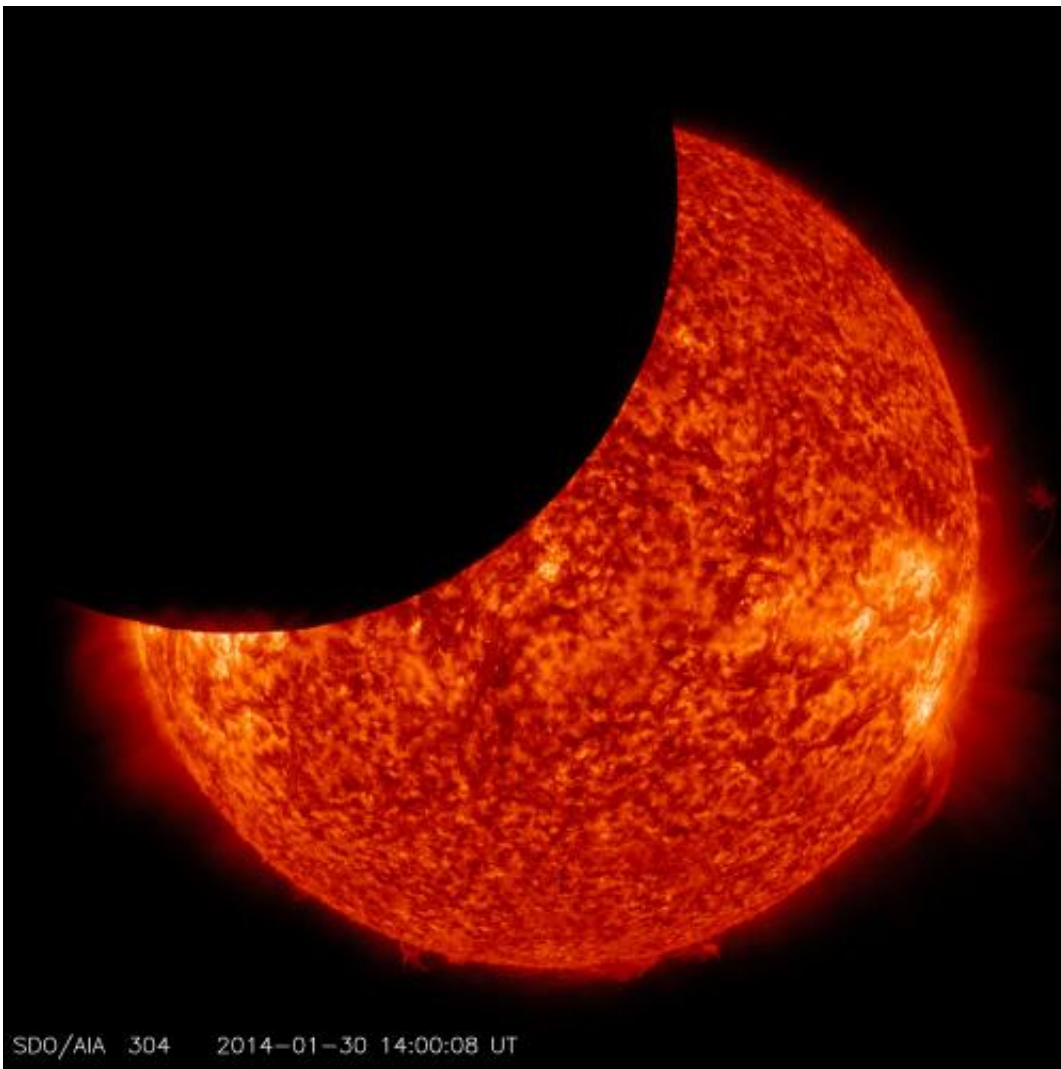


# Solar Dynamics Observatory sees lunar transit

January 31 2014

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NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory captured this image of the moon crossing in front of its view of the sun on Jan. 30, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. EST. Credit: NASA/SDO

On Jan 30, 2014, beginning at 8:31 a.m EST, the moon moved between NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, and the sun, giving the observatory a view of a partial solar eclipse from space. Such a lunar transit happens two to three times each year.

This one lasted two and one half hours, which is the longest ever recorded. When the next one will occur is as of yet unknown due to planned adjustments in SDO's orbit.

Note in the picture how crisp the horizon is on the moon, a reflection of the fact that the moon has no atmosphere around it to distort the light from the sun.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Solar Dynamics Observatory sees lunar transit (2014, January 31) retrieved 17 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-01-solar-dynamics-observatory-lunar-transit.html>

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